



Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

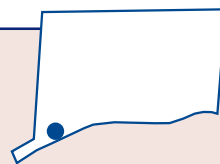
Bridgeport, CT

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. The brownfields job training grants provide residents of communities impacted by brownfields with the skills and training needed to effectively gain employment in assessment and cleanup activities associated with brownfield redevelopment and environmental remediation. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of Bridgeport was selected to receive a job training grant. Bridgeport (population 139,529) is a federally designated Enterprise Community located in southwest Connecticut. Bridgeport is the poorest city in Connecticut and one of the 10 poorest cities in the



Job Training Grant

\$198,500

EPA has selected the City of Bridgeport for a job training grant. The city plans to train 50 community residents in both hazardous materials and lead abatement through an intensive training program requiring approximately 80 hours of instruction. Courses will include hazardous waste operation and emergency response training and lead abatement worker certification. One of the five training cycles will be given in Spanish. The city plans to place 35 graduates in environmental jobs. The Bridgeport Department of Social Services will hire a full-time job training developer who will coordinate, recruit, screen, assess, refer, and track trainees throughout the course of the project. Students will be recruited from eligible residents through the Food Stamp Employment Training program.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 1 Brownfields Team
617-918-1305
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Bridgeport, CT
203-576-7471

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

nation. More than 60 percent of city residents are minorities and 25 percent live in poverty. The city-wide unemployment rate of 9 percent is almost twice that of neighboring communities, and unemployment rates soar to 25 percent in many targeted census tracts. The city has high rates of illnesses, including asthma and cancer,

that are potentially impacted by adverse environmental conditions. There are more than 200 identified brownfield sites in the city, which is 95 percent developed. The city has many old buildings contaminated with lead and other hazardous substances and is actively pursuing brownfields cleanup activities. Employers have expressed an increased demand for certified environmental technicians.